GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:36
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
INTRODUCTION OF ASTROLOGY AND VEDIC COURSES IN UNIVERSITIES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that UGC has directed theuniversities to start courses on Astrology and Vedic rituals and have allocated funds for this purpose;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether such courses have already been started in the universities;

(d) if so, the details of Universities where these courses have been started; and

(e) if not, the year from which these courses are likely to be started.

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OCEAN DEVELOPME MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOKSABHASTARREDQUESTIONNO.36 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2001 REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF ASTROLOGY AND VEDIC COURSES IN UNIVERSITIES ASKE BY SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY AND SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ

(a) to (e): According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, the Commission has not directed any of the universities to start courses on Astrology and Vedic Rituals. The UGC had floated the scheme foropening of Department of Jyotir Vigyan for voluntary acceptance. The UGC approved starting of the B.A./M.Aand Ph.D. course of Jyotir Vigyan in some select universities out of a larger number that had applied for the same. A list of the 18 selected universities, which have agreed to start the course, is enclosed at Annexure 'A'.

The UGC had approved the starting of this course in Jyotir Vigyan from the academic session 2001-2002. Some of the universities like Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith, Tirupati; Jiwaji University, Gwalior; Vikram University, Ujjain; Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra; Lucknow University, Lucknow; and SASTRA, Thanjavur, have already started this course and others are in the process of starting the course. The UGC has allocated Rs.3.00crores for this purpose during the year 2001-02 and a sum of Rs.15.00 lakhs has been released to each of the selected institutes.

The UGC has not yet approved the proposal of any university for starting courses in Vedic Rituals or Paurohitya.

Annexure 'A'

List of 18 universities selected by University Grants Commission for starting of the degree courses in Jyotir Vigyan

1. Kurukshetra University

2. Himachal Pradesh University

3. Jiwaji University

4. Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith

5. Sri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya
6. Madurai Kamraj University

7 Vikram University

8. Ranchi University

9. Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya
10. Panjab University
11. Shanmuga Arts, Science, Technology and Research Academy {SASTRA} (Deemed University)
12. Saurashtra University
13. University of Mysore
14. Rajasthan University
15. BIT, Mesra
16. University of Jammu
17. Lucknow University
18. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra